RFG Talk: Alice in Wonderland as a Fairytale and a Resource Book in China

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Focusing on some semiotic aspects of Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, this talk gives a brief account of its reception in China with special reference to the first Chinese translation by Y. R. Chao in 1922, discusses how it inspired children’s literature and promoted vernacular Chinese at its formative stage, highlights the insights it has offered to a number of academic disciplines, and explains why it has eclipsed the 360+ subsequent translations till the present day. The talk will conclude that Chao’s Alice as a literary recreation has fascinated the child and the child that survives in the adult and as a multidisciplinary resource book has enlightened professionals in semiotics, linguistics, pragmatics, stylistics, and literary studies.

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Sponsored by the IHC’s Global Childhood Ecologies Research Focus Group, Comparative Literature, East Asia Center, and Translation Studies